

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forbes ('061); claims 3, 7, 8, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes ('061); claims 10, 12, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes ('061) in view of Wolf; claims 15, 17, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes ('061) in view of Wolf and Keshavarzi; claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes, Wolfe, and Keshavarzi as applied to claim 15, and further in view of De; claims 31 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Forbes ('805); and claims 32-34 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim and Forbes ('805) as applied to claim 31, and further in view of Forbes ('061).

Claims 1, 20, and 31 have been amended to include the limitation of an active source region. Active source region is defined in the disclosure in Figure 2 and page 9, lines 30-33, page 10, lines 1-4, page 24, line 6-8, and page 24, lines 13-15. This feature is not found in the Forbes et al. reference where, in the examiners own words, a connection to the transistor gate (i.e. word line) is taught and disclosed. As such the Forbes et al. patent is not a valid 102 reference and claims 1 and 20 are allowable over the cited art. Claims 2-19 are dependent on claim 1 and contain all the limitations contained in claim 1. The Forbes patent neither teaches nor anticipates the limitations in claim 1 and therefore dependent claims 2-19 are allowable over the Forbes et al. patent under 102 or 103. Claims 21-30 are dependent on claim 20 and contain all the limitations contained in claim 20. The Forbes patent neither teaches nor anticipates the limitations in claim 20 and therefore dependent claims 2-19 are allowable over the Forbes et al. patent under either 102 or 103.

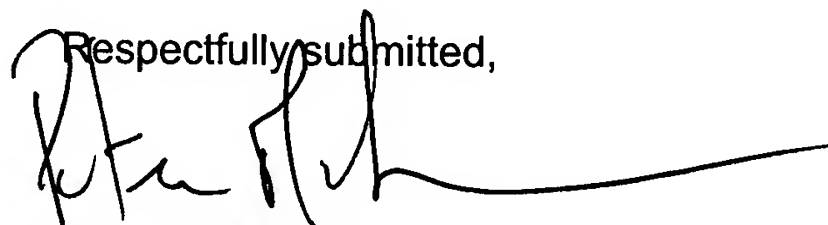
Claim 31 has been further amended to include the limitation of an active source region and includes the limitation of the strap cell body region comprising a well region.

Clearly there is no active source region or a strap cell with a well body region in the Forbes et al. patent and therefore amended claim 31 is allowable over the Forbes et al. patent. Dependent claims 32-35 and 37 all contain the limitations of amended claim 31 and are also allowable over the Forbes et al. patent.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

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